Actual rate of inflation for Essential Commodities

2300. SHRI GYAN RANJAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the actual rate of inflation is more than fifteen per cent in respect of essential commodities consumed generally by common man;

(b) if not, the basis for computing the price index in respect of essential items;

(c) whether Government will provide any relief to Government/Semi-Government/Public Sector staff to compensate for erosion in their wages due to abnormally high rate of inflation arising from administered price hike of petrol, diesel and railway freight; and

(d) if so, the quantum of relief being contemplated?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Annual inflation rate based on wholesale price index of 30 essential commodities taken together and that of 31 essential commodities based on retail price index during 1995-96 and 1996-97 is listed in Table 1.

Table 1

Annual Rate of Inflation of Essential Commodities

(per cent)

Year	Month	Whole-sale Price Index (1981-82)		Retail Price Index (1982)	
		All commo-dities	Essential commo-dities	General	Essential commo-dities
1995	April	10.0	9.1	9.7	10.1
	May	9.9	7.4	10.3	10.1
	June	9.1	7.0	10.5	13.4
	July	8.8	9.3	11.4	13.2
	August	8.8	7.3	10.9	13.3
	September	8.9	8.0	10.1	13.2
	October	8.4	7.5	10.4	12.7
	November	8.4	7.4	10.3	15.5
	December	6.4	5.0	9.7	11.4
1996	January	5.0	3.5	9.0	10.1
	February	4.6	3.4	8.6	9.7
	March	5.1	3.9	8.9	8.7
	April	5.0	4.9	9.8	9.7
	May	4.5	4.9	9.3	10.2
	June	4.6	5.8		
	July	5.0	5.0		

(c) There is no such proposal under consideration of the Government.

(d) Question does not arise.

Operation of small aircraft from Madras to Velankanni

2301. SHRI O.S. MANIAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to operate a small aircraft from Madras to the great pilgrim centre of Velankanni;

(b) if so, what action has been taken so far; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) At present, there is no airstrip at Velankanni.

Tourism Policy

2302. SMT. JAYAPRADA NAHATA:
DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the tourism policy was not given due share by the planners and enough was not done to promote tourism;

(b) if so, whether Government are seeking an outlay of Rs. 5,800 crore in the 9th Plan;

(c) whether Government have fixed any target of tourists by 2000;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA KUMAR JENA): (a) The overall resource constraints have effected allocation for promotion of tourism.

(b) The Department of Tourism has submitted the Working Group Report on Tourism for the 9th Five Year Plan seeking an outlay of Rs. 6397 crores for the development of tourism during 9th Five Year Plan.

(c) to (e) A target of 5 million tourists by 2000 A.D. has been fixed provided the requisite investment as planned would be available.

News-item "Supreme Court Ka Aitihasik Faisala"

2303. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item captioned "Supreme Court Ka Aitihasik Faisala: High Court ko harja kharcha ada karne ke nirdesh: Poorv Registrar ke nilamban ka aadesh radd" appearing in the Jansatta dated 23rd November, 1994;

(b) if so, what are the facts thereof, and the action Government have taken thereon;

(c) whether Government propose to bring to the notice of CAT, High Courts, Finance Ministry etc. to consider giving "harja kharcha" where Government/Banks are held responsible for taking action against its employees violating the laid down procedure, rules, regulations and judgements of the Supreme Court of universal nature; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, the Governmen thas come to know of the order of the Supreme Court from the news reports. The Hon'ble Supreme Court in Writ Petition No. 680 of 1994 decided on November 22, 1994 has directed the Respondent-High Court of Rajasthan to pay Rs. 10,000/- as costs to the petitioner. The award is that of cost and not compensation. In compliance with the direction of the Supreme Court the High Court has paid a sum of Rs. 10,000/- Shri R.C. Sood, the petitioner who was then posted as District Judge, Pratap Garh.

(c) No Sir,

(d) Does not arise.

Programme for Bypassing Cardiac Surgery

2304. SHRI LAKKHIRAM AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Bypassing Cardiac Surgery" appearing in Hindustan Times dated 10th July, 1996;

(b) if so, whether Dr. Bimal Chhajer is conducting a programme for heart patients which enables the patients to avoid surgery;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government propose to encourage such programmes by giving financial help?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) to (c) It is understood that the